

SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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DOCTOR, ALUMNI SECRETARY, DISCUSSES ALCOHOL

On page two will be found a reproduction of the editorial page of the April 1941 issue of Southern California Alumni Review, organ of the Alumni Association of the University of Southern California, of which Dr. Frank W. Otto, M.D. is editor. Besides being editor of the Alumni Review and a popular figure on the USC campus, Dr. Otto is a practicing physician with offices in downtown Los Angeles. In a letter giving permission to produce the editorial in Social Action Newsletter, Dr. Otto observed that the facts stated in the editorial were gathered from various sources and from personal experiences in the practice of medicine. With a clear understanding of the workings of the student mind, Dr. Otto has directed telling blow at the use of alcohol by young people. We are informed that the editorial attracted wide attention on the campus from both students and alumni when it appeared. Social Action Newsletter recommends its study by thousands of youth groups affiliated with the churches.

DISCIPLE FAMILY PUBLISHES ONLY U.S. NEGRO DAILY

The Atlanta (Ga.) Daily World is the only Negro daily newspaper published in the United States. It is a 16-page, 8 column journal carrying local and national news of special interest to Negro people and is edited and published in the best newspaper form. In addition to general news it carries a society page, a sports page, comic section, radio log, a chatty column of trivial under the heading "What Sam of Auburn Avenue Says," and even a continued story feature. The paper is well gotten up, liberally illustrated with cuts and seems to enjoy considerable advertising patronage, among which a few white firms are represented.

Founded by W. A. Scott in 1928 as the Atlanta World, it became a daily in 1932. After his death in 1934 the business passed to his widow, who still maintains an active interest in its publication, though it is now published by the Atlanta Daily World Publishing Company, with C. A. Scott as general manager and Cliff Mackay as Managing editor. The Atlanta Daily World is a member of the Scott newspaper Syndicate which owns a number of Negro publications and maintains its own news service. Mrs. W. A. Scott, widow of the founder, is active in religious affairs and was an interested attendant upon the recent National Negro Convention of Disciples of Christ at Nashville, Tennessee.

COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE EMERGENCY GETS INTO ACTION

The Committee on Religious Service to Men Engaged in National Defense has gone into action to meet the emergency situation caused by the development of many new industrial communities in the United States and the presence of more than a million young men in military training camps. Many of these training camps are located in areas where our churches are weak and unable to carry the increased service demanded without brotherhood aid.

The committee was organized under authorization of the board of trustees of The United Christian Missionary Society, but in personnel it is representative of the entire brotherhood. Its chairman is F. H. Groom, pastor of the Franklin Circle Church, Cleveland, Ohio, with C. H. Jope as vice chairman, and James A. Crain as secretary. Other members are John A. Tate, Richmond, Virginia, Kenneth Bowen, Covington, Kentucky, W. H. Walker, Bloomington, Illinois, C. D. Pantle, St. Louis, Missouri, C. C. Roberts, Washington, D.C., and Willard M. Wickizer, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The committee extended a call to H. Glen Haney, of Richmond, Virginia to become its field representative to visit camp communities and other defense areas in order to study the needs and make recommendations. Mr. Haney began his work on July 15 and has already visited a large number of pastors and churches in communities adjacent to military camps.

The UCMS has allotted \$10,000 of the funds received from the special offering on June 22 to the work of the committee. The sum of \$45,000 additional has been written into the askings of the Emergency Million Campaign and will be made available as these funds are received.

From funds in hand the committee has made the following appropriations to churches near military camps:

Columbus, Ga. (Fort Benning)	\$ 600*
Tullahoma, Tenn. (Camp Forrest)	600
Hattiesburg, Miss. (Camp Shelby)	1300
Rantoul, Ill. (Chanute Field)	300

*All appropriations at the annual rate

The committee also appropriated \$300 for production of needed literature, \$500 for a Chaplain's Fund and \$300 for expenses.



Editorial Comment

FRANK W. OTTO, Arts '15, Medical '21

Alcoholism in varying degrees has at all times been a problem in this country. However, since the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment it has again confronted the American people as a major problem and therefore invites our particular consideration.

Fermentation of foods and beverages is as old as the early beginnings of civilization when men first attempted to save food from one meal to the next. From these early beginnings there developed a most complete set of formulas for the distillation of many kinds of fermented drinks, and with it has come the less desirable development of chronic alcoholism.

I believe that alcoholism is often the expression of a weak and unstable nervous system or of one who is unable to make social adjustments. An inferiority complex results which is temporarily overcome under the stimulus of alcohol. In this country whiskey and gin are responsible for the greater portion of chronic alcoholism. Beer, wine, and ale, however, also have their effects. Advancing one step farther, it should be said that there is no question but that alcohol has an hereditary effect of a degenerating nature even though the individual and the race have varying tolerance to it.

Physiologically, alcohol in small doses seems to be a stimulant; in larger excessive doses it is a toxin. Temporary results are acidosis, or a decrease in the alkalinity of the blood; avitaminosis, or the lack of vitamins, and a deficiency of blood chloride or salt. It is also a strong dehydrating agent which removes water from healthy tissues. Other symptoms are a slowing of nerve reaction and a general mental incompetence. It is a poison and a depressant. Over a period of time degenerative changes occur such as arteriosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries; gastritis, or inflammation of the stomach, cirrhosis, or hardening of the liver, and sterility.

Prohibition was inaugurated because alcohol and preparedness do not mix any more than alcohol and gasoline. It has been estimated by W. S. Alexander, of the Federal Alcohol Administration, that four billion dollars a year are spent for alcoholic drinks. This would build planes, hospitals, colleges and schools. Furthermore, the normal earning power lost through drinking is estimated at twenty billion dollars a year.

Crime is linked with alcohol and aside from the social aspect, the cost for the prevention of lawlessness, as well as the prosecuting of criminals, their conviction and incarceration, is impossible to estimate. Figures that

were placed before Congress in the year 1940 showed over 400,000 retail outlets as compared with 177,791 before Prohibition. Indications are that hard liquor consumption is increasing heavily as compared to wines and beer. It has been estimated that there are 478 million gallons of whiskey in storage now. Yet with all this availability of liquor we still have the presence of the bootlegger who is cutting in on government revenues.

The family and all individuals of the family are directly affected where alcohol is part of adult expenditures. It is an accepted fact that standards of living decline under these conditions. Of vital importance, too, as indicated by the large per cent of increase due to this cause, is the increase in automobile accidents. Drunk driving hits the age group from 17 to 22 years. Records show that more accidents occur on Sunday than any other day of the week, with Saturday a close second, and Monday the lowest. The occurrence of accidents varies according to the time of day, and the hours between 6 and 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. are the worst. It is probable that the fatigue factor may enter into the 6 and 7 p.m. accidents, and that the alcohol intoxication reaches its peak toward midnight. There is no question but that in the individual even in sub-intoxication there is an impairment in judgment, the reflexes are retarded, the field of vision is decreased, and there is a sense of well-being which gives an exaggerated feeling of over-optimism. In the year 1937 in the United States 39,000 lives were lost and over 100,000 persons permanently disabled in automobile accidents, a large percentage of them definitely due to intoxication in various stages.

It has been my experience in dealing with young people of high school and college age that 95 per cent of the cases of moral difficulty and indiscretion have been preceded by "just one or two drinks." Without limitation as to class or district, this less generally recognized result of alcoholism again reflects the impairment of judgment, the dominance of the physical over the mental under the mild stimulus of alcohol.

These figures and facts, drawn from various sources, should be considered by us all. We must stop and realize what alcohol is doing in this country even though we do believe in the so-called individual rights. From a preparedness viewpoint, from a taxpayer's viewpoint, from a financial viewpoint, and for protection of the family and the lives and limbs of the wage earners of the family, do we want conditions as they are today?

ON SOCIAL FRONTIERS

The cooperative credit union is rapidly being recognized as an effective method whereby churches can provide means of 'bearing one another's burdens' and building congregational solidarity. The St. Anne's Federal Credit Union, Fall River, Mass., claims to be the largest parish credit union in the U.S. Organized 5 years ago, this credit union now has a membership of 1,092 and share capital assets of \$64,386. In 1940, 260 new members were added. Seven persons in any congregation can organize a cooperative credit union. Full information as to procedure may be secured by writing Credit Union National Association, Raiffeisen House, Madison, Wis., or to Credit Union Section, Farm Security Administration, Washington, D.C.

Community Service, Inc., an organization to study the interests of the community as a basic social institution and to serve as a clearing house of information on the background and principles of community life and organization has been launched at Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio, under the leadership of Dr. Arthur E. Morgan, with Landrum R. Bolling as vice president and manager and Miss Eleanor Switzer as secretary-treasurer. The organization will give attention to the development of community undertakings in rural neighborhoods, villages, town, and cities and will direct attention to individuals, civic clubs, schools, churches, local governmental agencies, cooperatives, labor organizations, business enterprises, and other organizations and groups which may be making their localities into real communities.

In mid-July when farm labor was scarce members of the Civilian Public Service camp (conscientious objectors) at Lagro, Ind., under the auspices of the Church of the Brethren arranged to do emergency farm work such as haying and harvesting. The work was done in free time after the regular 40 hours per week on governmental projects had been completed. Farmers' committee set the wage rate at \$2.50 per day and provided transportation. Money thus earned will be used for a community project.

According to the New York Post, Newbold Morris, president of the N.Y. City Council, on a broadcast with Brigadier-General Hershey, Selective Service Administrator, attacked conscientious objectors. Gen. Hershey startled Morris and radio listeners by defending these men. Some one whispered to Morris, "I guess you didn't know it. Gen. Hershey was raised in the Mennonite faith."

General living costs in the U.S. are now almost 7% higher than when the war started in Europe, according to the Labor Information Bulletin, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. By far the greater percentage of this increase took place in the three or four months preceding August 1941. Food averaged approximately 15% higher in July 1941 than in the summer of 1939. Men's suits are up 6%, overalls 15%, and shoes 8% compared to two years ago. House furnishing are up between 7 and 8%, though items like rugs may cost as much as 20% more. Rents in cities like Indianapolis, Baltimore, Memphis, Mobile, and Norfolk have increased about 5 percent. Wages have lagged behind living costs, though there have been substantial increases in some trades.

CHURCH LEADERS AND SELECTIVE SERVICE OFFICIALS REVIEW CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR PROGRAM

On September 1, 2, and 3 members of the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, officials of the agencies operating Civilian Public Service Camps, the directors of the 20 CPS camps now in operation, and representatives of religious bodies that have conscientious objectors assigned to camps met at Winona Lake, Indiana for conference with Brigadier-General Lewis F. Hershey, administrator of Selective Service, Colonel Lewis Kosch, chief of field operations, and Major Franklin McLean, inspector of camps, to review the conscientious objector program as it has developed to date and to project plans for the future. The present plan of assigning men who are opposed to military training and service on the ground of religious training and belief, to Civilian Public Service Camps where they will do work of national importance under civilian direction has been carried on thus far upon an experimental basis, with the American Friends Service Committee, the Brethren Service Committee, and the Mennonite Central Committee agreeing to take care of all men assigned to their camps, regardless of religious affiliation. A total of 19 camps are operated by the bodies named and one camp is operated by the Catholic Association of Conscientious Objectors. This group was also represented at Winona Lake.

A survey of the work as reported by the camp directors reveals that an important experiment in Christian democracy is being worked out in these camps. Men often report to camp expecting to be 'shoved around' by some procedure only slightly less rigid than military discipline to discover instead that they are taking part in a program of cooperative living. Together the men face the problems of camp life, accept responsibilities for various phases of work, and make decisions which affect the life of the group. Work on government projects, such as soil conservation, reforestation, flood prevention, etc., is of course done under direction of technical experts provided by the various governmental bureaus, but for the most part these technical experts have been quick to discover the value of this cooperative program and to work in harmony with it. They bear strong testimony to the superior quality of the men in the camps. While camp directors are charged with responsibility for the operation of the camps, they as a rule take the position that the men in the camps are the ones who have made the hard decisions and have faced difficult situations and are therefore the ones to determine the conditions under which they will live and work. Problems of discipline are infrequent and are generally handled by the men themselves. These camps are in no sense disciplinary barracks and should a man finally prove himself to be intractable and non-cooperative, he would be returned to the Selective Service Administration for disposition. This however, would not be done until he had been tried out in various camps and under different associations and circumstances.

The Winona Lake conference took action requesting that the present experimental period be extended pending further study of the situation and the possibilities of financing the venture with-

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SOUTHWEST GETS AN INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

Five months ago (April 1941) the Rev. Robert Emmet Lucey became Roman Catholic Archbishop of the diocese of San Antonio. Thousands of Mexicans in San Antonio living in the direst poverty have expected little from their Church save the conventional ministries of religion. But Archbishop Lucey soon proved that a new day had dawned. Early in August he called 147 priests of the diocese into a two-week School of Social Justice. As described by Time (August 25), members of the school were taught the following things:

The social order should be reconstructed by the self-organization of industry, agriculture, and the professions, including labor.

One way to end poverty is to have the Government do the job. A better way to do it is to have the Government do the job in partnership with economic organizations.

All men are created fundamentally equal, and so all have a fundamentally equal claim to the goods of the earth.

Every man has a right to a living wage for himself and his family, derived from "work good for his body and soul." Every wage earner should have a reasonable opportunity to become a property owner.

Priests should abet "good, clean" labor unions in organizing, cooperate in every way with them. They should also help employers to organize.

The Church cannot be held blameless for the present "rotten state of economic affairs" because the Church did not act soon enough to avert it.

Among the courses taught at the school were "Balanced Income & Balanced Prices," "Industrial Unionism," "Federal Government and Organized Labor," "The Living Wage," "The Right to Strike." Among the literature made available were pamphlets on housing (badly needed in San Antonio), CIO News, AFL brochures, Department of Labor pamphlets on child labor, and the labor encyclicals of Leo XIII and Pius XI.

In addition to CIO & AFL organizers, lawyers, utility representatives, and an industrial engineer, Archbishop Lucey called in two key leaders in the Catholic social action movement, Father Raymond A. McGowan, assistant-director of the National Catholic Welfare Conference's Social Action Department, and Monsignor Reynold Hillenbrand, of Mundelein, Illinois, protege of the late Cardinal Mundelein, perhaps the greatest friend of organized labor America ever had.

In the five months of his career as Archbishop of San Antonio, Archbishop Lucey has laid the foundation for a program of Catholic Action that will include adult social study clubs, a youth social action movement, a program of vacation religious schools for children, and has organized a Catholic Welfare Bureau to take charge of the Church's relief and health work. Said the Archbishop, "We will try to go on and on - this is our beginning."

Officials review C.O. program (cont. page 3)
out governmental aid. The whole question of governmental support of the camps was thoroughly discussed with Gen. Hershey. He made it clear that while the government stands ready to take over the operation and support of the camps at any time, when it does so the camps will lose their religious significance and their present character as experiments in Christian cooperative living and will be operated as secular camps, much on the same order as CCC camps. He effectively disposed of the hope held by some that the government might be induced to support the camps and permit them to be administered by religious agencies. The sentiment of the conference was unanimous for continuance of the present program. There was some feeling that should the government take over the operation of the camps a serious situation would be created for some conscientious objectors who oppose any interference of the government in matters relating to Christian conscience.

DISCIPLES IN CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE CAMPS

The following Disciples of Christ had been assigned to Civilian Public Service Camps on September 20, as indicated:

Camp Magnolia, Magnolia, Ark. - Brethren
Edgar Johnson, Bristow, Okla., Phillips Univ.
Dewis Bridges, 1st Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Camp Lagro, Lagro, Ind. - Brethren
Harold Bruss, 1st Church, Marion, Ind.
Donald Gordley, Mt. Sterling, Ill.

Camp Manistee (Stronach) Mich. - Brethren
Lewis H. Watkins, Cent. Woodward, Detroit, Mich.

Camp Merom, Merom, Ind. - Friends
Howard Suits, 1st Church, Richmond, Ind.

Camp San Dimas, Glendora, California - Friends
Oliver W. Petty, 1st Church, Corvallis, Ore.
Claude Price, Jr., 1st Church, Bremerton, Wash.
Glennis Oliver Stice, Los Angeles, Calif.

Camp Royalston, Royalston, Mass. - Friends
Paul Leslie Rhodes, Buffalo, N.Y.
Theodore Daniel Adams, West Haven, Conn.
Bill Read, Iola, Kansas

Camp Marion, Buck Creek, N.C. - Friends
Isaac Erret Reid, Jr., Louisville, Ky.

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